# Start of Saul Lewin Collection

# AR 11392

Svs #: 000200088

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AR 11392 1/1 Saul Lewin Collection 1941 - 2003 Archives

ROXANE OFFNER
[redacted]

March 3, 2003

[redacted]
Leo Baeck Institute
Center for Jewish History
New York, NY 10011

Dear Ms. Stein:

Thank you for making the time to meet with me last Monday, February 24, 2003 so that I could share with you the drawings of Saul Lewin. I am enclosing 12 of his pen and ink drawings, one of which is colored, and two letters which he sent my mother. My mother, Dorothy L. Offner, a sculptor, had made a portrait head of him in 1942. I enclose a copy of the photo which was in my mother's album. Unfortunately, I do not know what happened to the actual sculpture.

I spoke with a friend who also knew him who believed that Saul, his sister Peggy and his mother, had sought refuge in Sweden before coming to the United States. But he too did not know the country of origin nor any information about him since the 1940's. From the date on one of the drawings, Mein Treues Volk, (1938), I assume most were done in Europe. The first letter addressed to my mother is dated 1941, the year my family met him in New York

The anguish and the pain and the misery depicted in these drawings are overpowering, even though the drawings are small in size. I am delighted that they will find a safe home at the Leo Baeck Institute and that other people will be able to see them. I am also hoping that with a larger audience, perhaps some information about Saul Lewin in the years since the 1940's will surface.

Sincerely,

Roxane Offner

Roxane Offner

New York, August 22, 1941

Dear Dorothy,

Few people like what I do, and still fewer are interested. Your warm understanding and inexplainable interest in my work and person has therefore ment much to me. Since I am leaving for dark and sinister depths (that is: looking for a job), a desire has grown within me that at least one should remember me by that which is myself.

I therefore send you excerpts of my production--incidental things of no value, mostly made during a time when I had little idea of conscious art. Never could I capture what I saw in the splendorous well of my soul, never could I, free, reach out over the spaces--I was small and limited.

Still--in the pearl of dew we perceive the glorious light of the sun, and the torrential rains.

I do not know whether you want to receive something of this kind; there is maybe no place for it in your heart or home. But this was the only way I knew how to express myself.

I thank you for the happy time in your company. That I again could feel so glad and heartened.

Please give my best regards to your husband and daughter.

Sincerely yours,

Saul

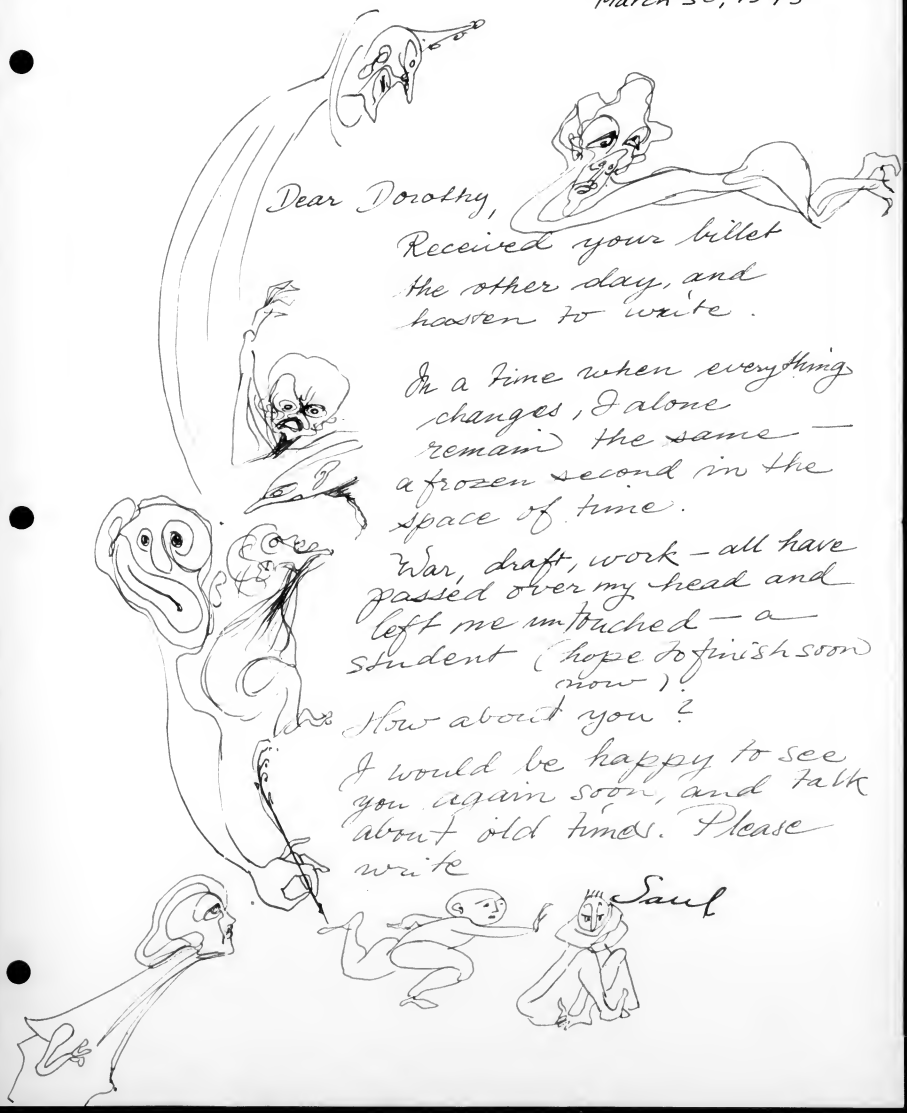
Saul Lewin

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mrs. Dorothy Gilmore

835 Riverside Drive
March 30, 1943



Dear Dorothy,

Received your billet the other day, and hasten to write.

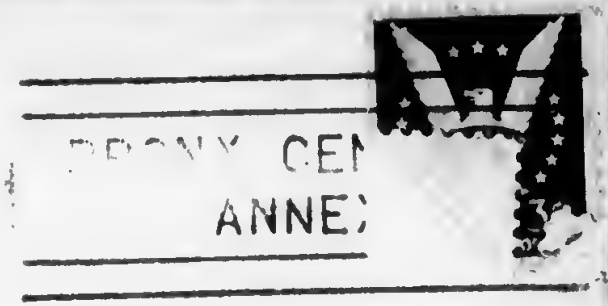
In a time when everything changes, I alone remain the same — a frozen second in the space of time.

War, draft, work — all have passed over my head and left me untouched — a student (hope to finish soon now).

How about you?

I would be happy to see you again soon, and talk about old times. Please write

Saul




Mrs. Dorothy Offner
415 E. 16 Street
Brooklyn, N.Y.

835 Riverside Drive
NY

End of Saul Lewin Collection